

## ***Bible Stories for Young Children***

*part of a curriculum prepared for young children*

# ***DAVID COUNTS HIS MEN***

*by*  
*Chris Thorpe*  
*& people from Coromandel Baptist Church*

*Illustrated by Muriel Auty*

*Website: [www.corobaptist.org.au](http://www.corobaptist.org.au)*

*The following pages may be copied  
if they are unchanged, acknowledged and not used for profit*

**2 SAMUEL 24:1–25; 1 CHRONICLES 22:1**

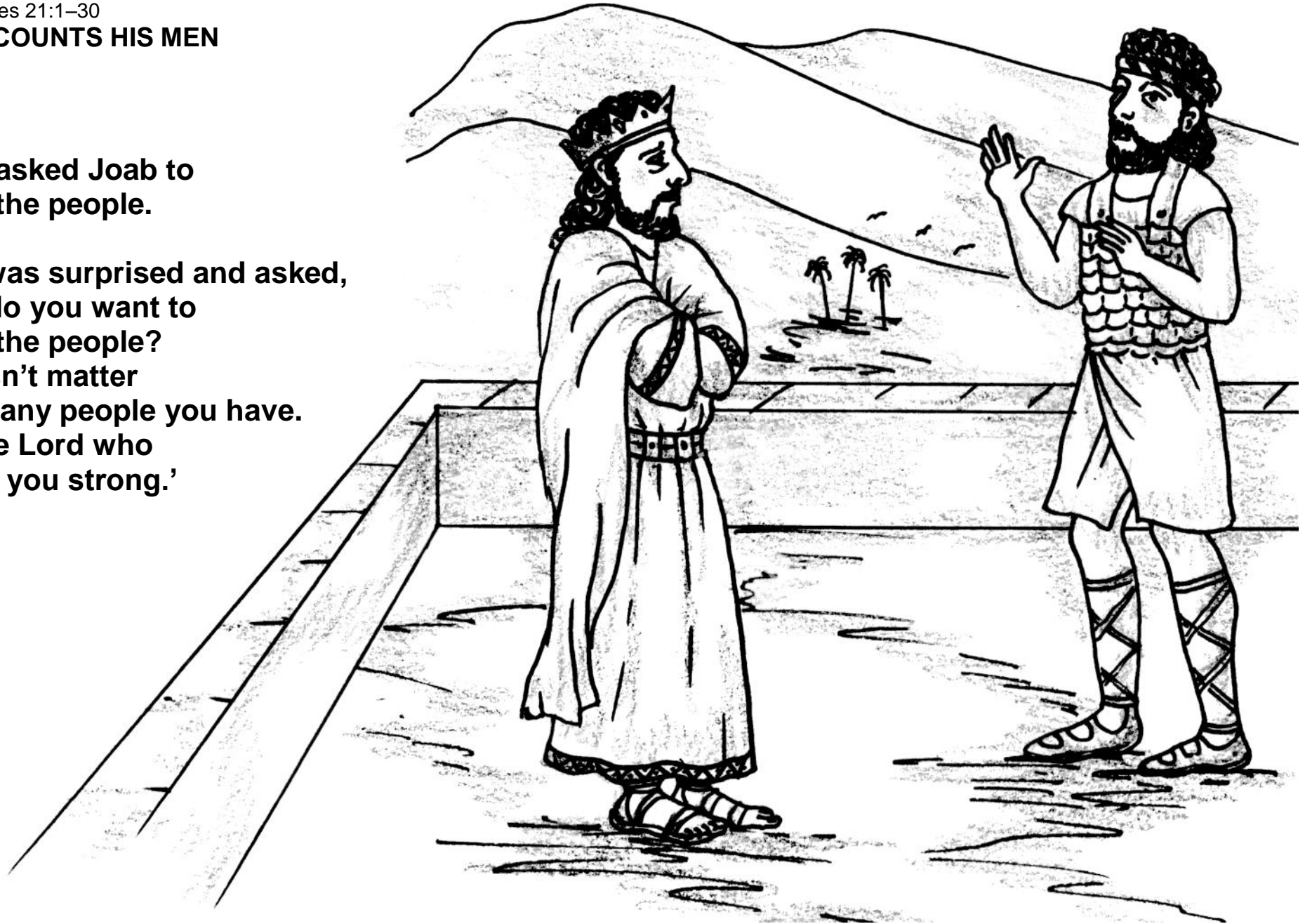
1 Chronicles 21:1–30

## **DAVID COUNTS HIS MEN**

File no. 66

**David asked Joab to  
count the people.**

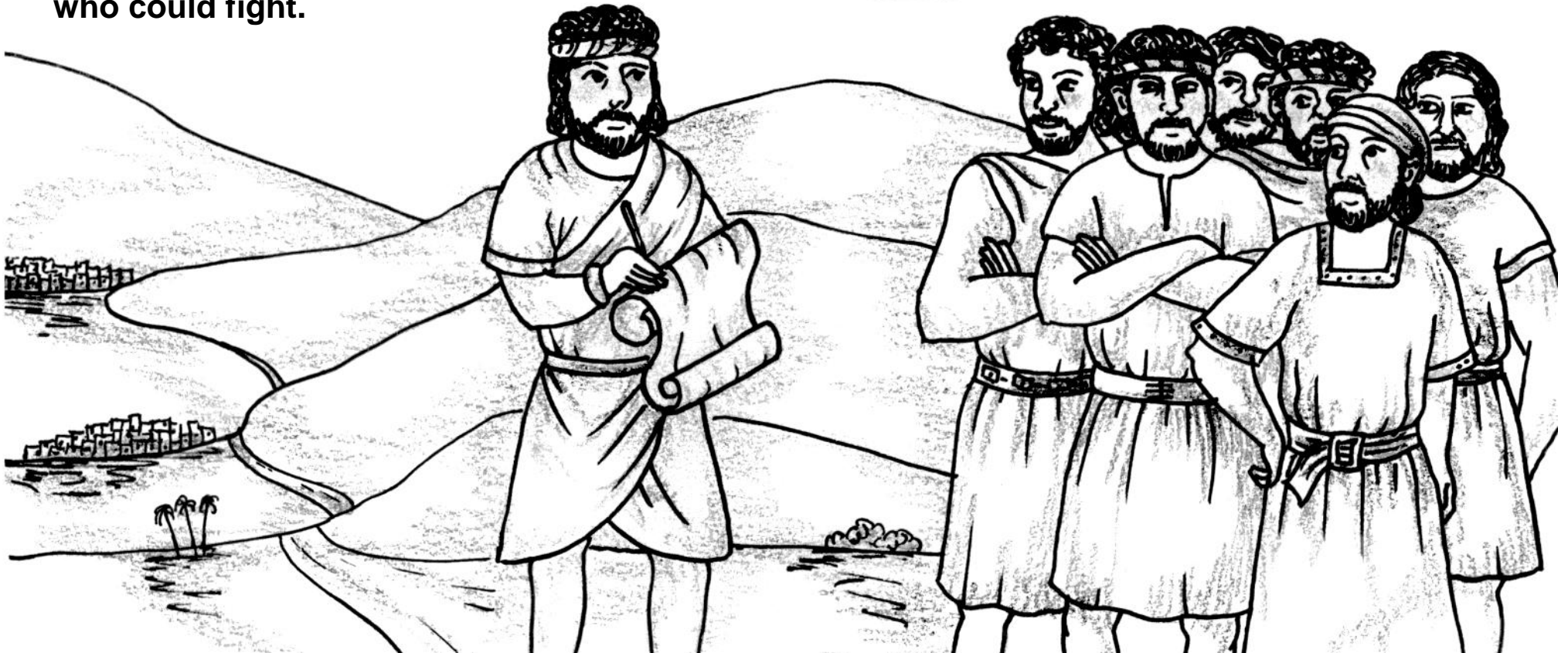
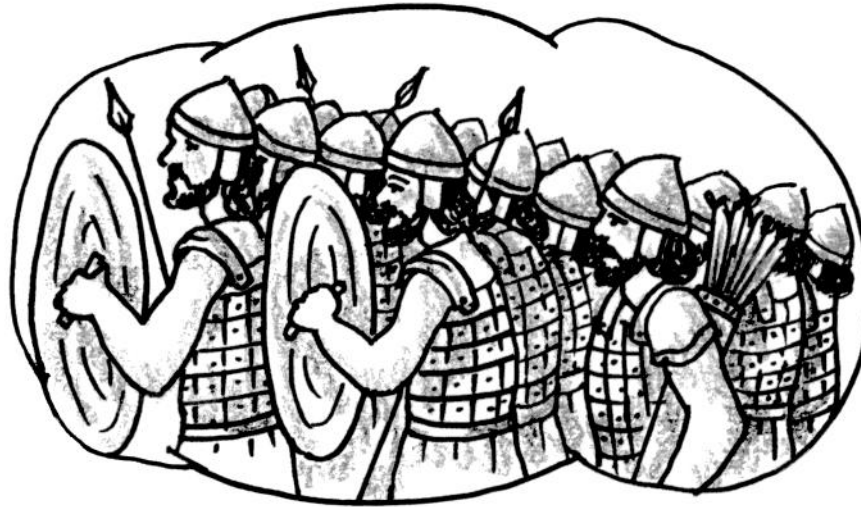
**Joab was surprised and asked,  
'Why do you want to  
count the people?  
It doesn't matter  
how many people you have.  
It is the Lord who  
makes you strong.'**



David wouldn't listen to Joab  
and he didn't listen to the Lord.

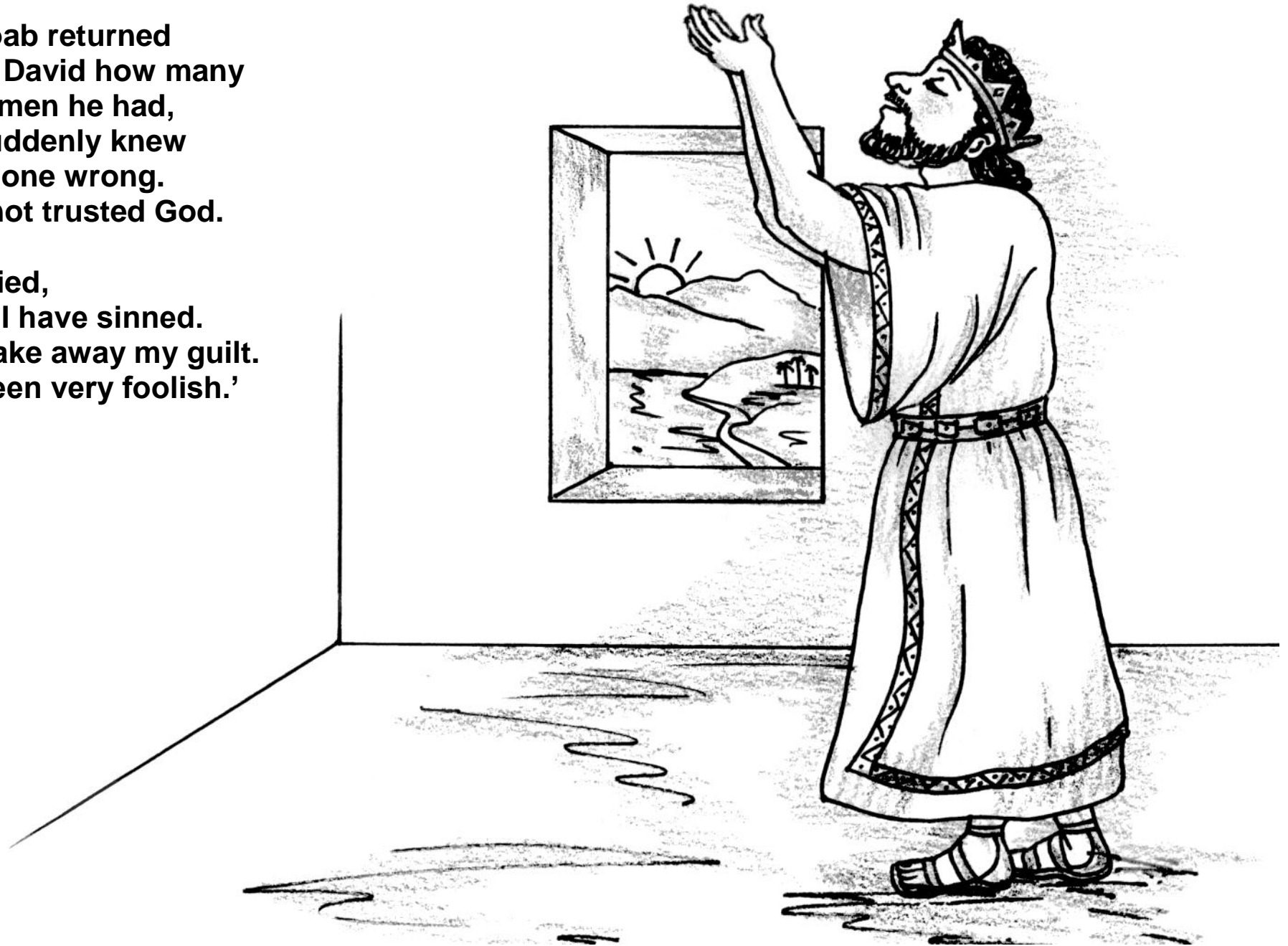
So Joab and his men  
went throughout the land  
and counted the people.

He made a list of  
800,000 men in Israel  
and 500,000 men in Judah  
who could fight.



**When Joab returned  
and told David how many  
fighting men he had,  
David suddenly knew  
he had done wrong.  
He had not trusted God.**

**David cried,  
'O Lord, I have sinned.  
Please take away my guilt.  
I have been very foolish.'**



**God visited Gad, the prophet,  
and said,  
'Go and tell David,  
that I am going to punish him.  
He can choose the punishment.  
It will be either  
famine, enemies chasing him,  
or three days of  
disease in the land!''**

**When David heard this  
he replied.  
'All of these punishments  
are awful.  
But let it be God  
that punishes me  
and not the people,  
because He is merciful.'**



**God sent sickness on the people and lots of people died.**

**Then David saw the angel of death,  
standing by Araunah's threshing-floor,  
ready to destroy Jerusalem.**

**David cried out,  
'I have sinned.  
I am the one who has done wrong.  
Punish me and my family.'**





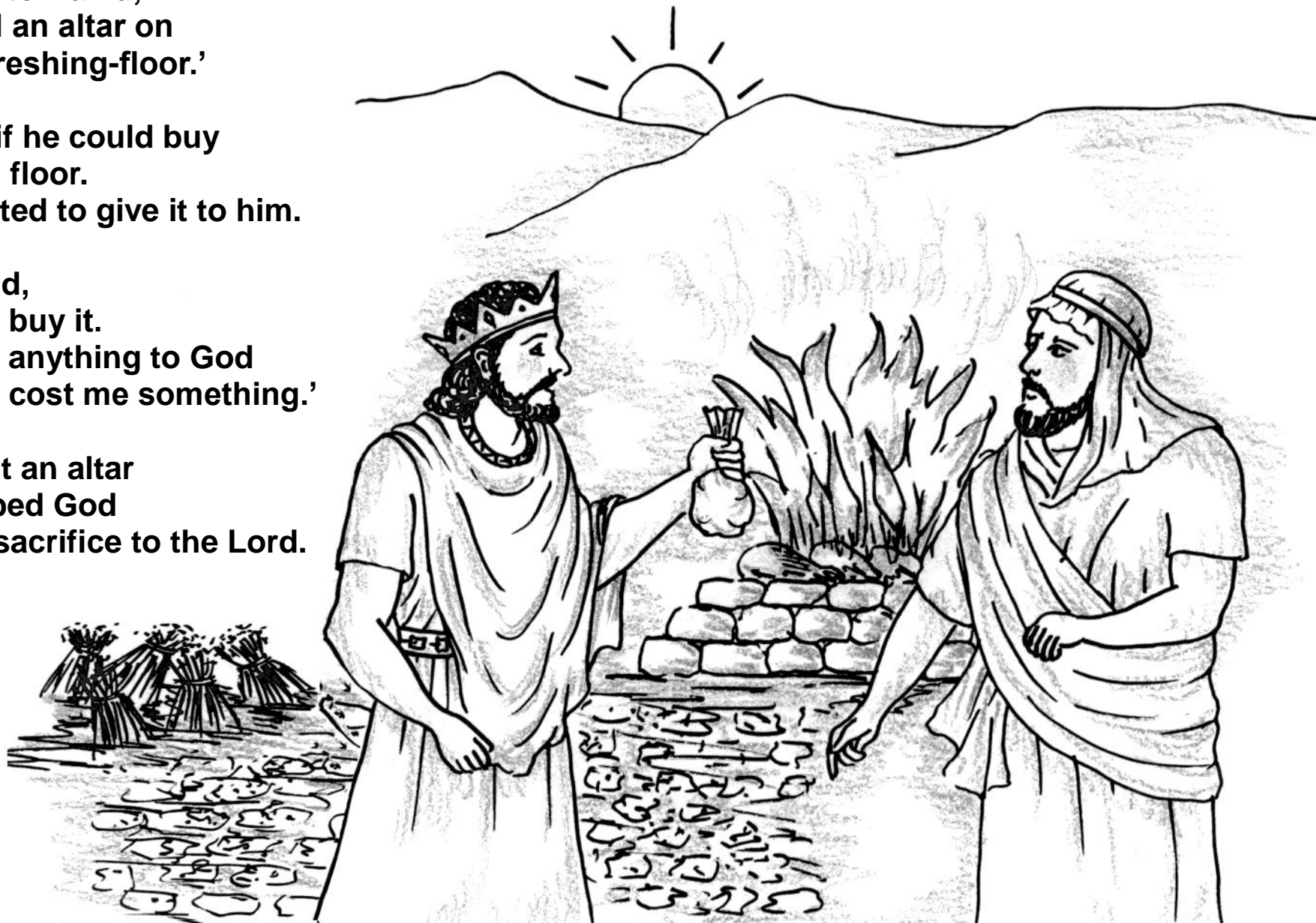
**God heard David's prayer and stopped the angel.**

**Then He said to David,  
'Go and build an altar on  
Araunah's threshing-floor.'**

**David asked if he could buy  
the threshing floor.  
Araunah wanted to give it to him.**

**But David said,  
'No. I need to buy it.  
I will not give anything to God  
that does not cost me something.'**

**So David built an altar  
and worshipped God  
by making a sacrifice to the Lord.**



David saw that God had been merciful to him.

He said,  
'This is the place  
where God's house is to be built,  
the place for the burnt sacrifices,  
a place to give thanks to God  
for His mercy.'

